

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5654

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4433

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: BALAGUER ATTENDANCE AT GUZMAN INAUGURATION CEREMONIES

1. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS JIMENEZ TOLD US INFORMALLY THIS MORNING THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS DECIDED TO ATTEND THE INAUGURATION CEREMONIES FOR NEW PRESIDENT GUZMAN ON AUGUST 16. HIS ATTENDANCE HAS BEEN A MATTER OF SOME CONJECTURE DURING THE PAST WEEK OR SO WITH MANY CONVINCED THAT HE WOULD NOT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS BE ABLE TO BRING HIMSELF TO ATTEND.

2. THIS HAS NOW BEEN TURNED AROUND. THE PRESENT SCHEDULE CALLS FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT GUZMAN TO PROCEED TO THE NATIONAL PALACE ABOUT 10:15 A.M. AUGUST 16. HE WILL BE JOINED THERE BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER. THEY WILL GO TOGETHER TO THE CONGRESSIONAL PALACE WHERE BALAGUER WILL BE GIVEN MILITARY HONORS AND SALUTE. BALAGUER WILL HAVE WITH HIM THE SASH OF OFFICE WHICH, AFTER THE HONORS, HE WILL TURN OVER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. THE PARTY WILL GO UPSTAIRS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HALL FOR THE SCHEDULED 10:30 A.M. INAUGURATION CEREMONIES. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT WILL SWEAR IN THE NEW PRESIDENT AND PLACE ON HIM HIS SASH OF OFFICE, THEN SWEAR IN THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT. THE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT WILL SPEAK, AS WILL GUZMAN. BALAGUER IS NOT
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SCHEDULED TO SPEAK.

4. PRESIDENT GUZMAN WILL RECEIVE MILITARY HONORS AND SALUTE ON DEPARTURE FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL PALACE, FROM WHENCE HE GOES TO THE NATIONAL PALACE TO SWEAR IN HIS CABINET AND THEN ON TO THE THE DEUM IN THE CATHEDRAL. EX-PRESIDENT BALAGUER IS EXPECTED TO DEPART PRIVATELY FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL PALACE.

5. HECTOR INCHAUSTEGUI, GUZMAN'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, AND LUDOVINO FERNANDEZ, WIDELY CONSIDERED A FRONT-RUNNER FOR THE JOB OF FOREIGN MINISTER, WERE TALKING WITH US WHEN THE ABOVE NEWS WAS BROUGHT BY JIMENEZ. ALL APPEARED GREATLY IMPRESSED AND CONSIDERED IT A POSITIVE OMEN FOR THE FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL TRANSFER OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER IIN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN WELL OVER A HUNDRED YEARS. APPARENTLY, BALAGUER, WHO WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO TRY TO HAMSTRING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE INAUGURATION, HAS DECIDED THAT THE CEREMONIAL GESTURE IS NEEDED FOR HIS OWN PLACE IN HISTORY.
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